

Message Text

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47

ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AEC-11 CIAE-00 H-03 INR-10 IO-14

L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-04 OMB-01 PA-04 PM-07 PRS-01 SAJ-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3760

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

S E C R E T BONN 11053

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, MARR, MCAP, GW

SUBJECT: MBFR: FORM OF THE COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT TO
REDUCE

BEGIN SUMMARY: FRG MBFR OFFICIAL BELIEVES THE QUESTION
OF THE FORM OF THE COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT BY THE NON-U.S.
SHOULD BE DISCUSSED WITHIN THE ALLIANCE SOON. THE FRG
IS PREPARING A PAPER ON THE TOPIC AND WOULD WELCOME ANY
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IDEAS WASHINGTON MIGHT WISH TO OFFER. END SUMMARY

1. DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH PM/DCA DEPUTY DIRECTOR FLOWERREE AND EMBOFF ON JULY 11, FRG FONOFF MBFR DIRECTOR RUTH DISCUSSED CURRENT FRG THINKING REGARDING THE NATURE OF THE "COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT" FOR SECOND PHASE REDUCTIONS BY ALL NON-U.S. WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS. RUTH INDICATED HIS OFFICE IS PRESENTLY PREPARING A PAPER ON THE SUBJECT WHICH WILL EXPLORE THE VARIOUS OPTIONS OF THE FORM OF THE COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT TO REDUCE AT THE END OF THE FIRST PHASE. THE FRG BELIEVES THE SUBJECT OF THE FORM ITSELF IS AN APPROPRIATE TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION BY ALLIANCE MEMBERS WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS. RUTH SAID THE FRG HAD HINTED PREVIOUSLY AT THE NEED FOR SUCH DISCUSSIONS, CITING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO THE FRG IN MARCH WHEN APPARENTLY THE QUESTION WAS FIRST RAISED.

2. RUTH EMPHASIZED THE PAPER UNDER PREPARATION IS STILL IN A RUDIMENTARY STAGE. HE THOUGHT ONE WAY IN WHICH THE COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT COULD BE MADE WOULD BE IN THE FORM OF A STATEMENT BY A WESTERN SPOKESMAN, MUCH AS WAS DONE WITH REGARD TO THE QUESTION OF HUNGARIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE TALKS. THIS STATEMENT COULD ACCOMPANY THE PHASE ONE AGREEMENT ON U.S.-USSR GROUND FORCE REDUCTIONS. THE FRG EMPHASIZED ONCE AGAIN ITS BELIEF OF THE IMPORTANCE OF FORECLOSING ANY POSSIBILITY OF THE NON-U.S. WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS HAVING AN "INDIVIDUAL" COMMITMENT SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION BY THE VARIOUS NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS. THEREFORE, THE FRG STRONGLY PREFERS TO HAVE THE COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT IN SOME FORM OTHER THAN EMBODIED DIRECTLY IN THE TEXT OF THE PHASE ONE AGREEMENT. IF THE COMMITMENT WERE IN THE TEXT REQUIRING NATIONAL RATIFICATION, THE FRG FEARS THIS COULD PERMIT THE EASTERN SIDE TO CLAIM THAT NATIONAL SUBCEILINGS HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED.

3. THE FRG POSITION SET FORTH ABOVE IS NOT NEW. THE GERMANS CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF A COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT TO WARD OFF ANY HINT OF NATIONAL SUBCEILINGS. RUTH SAID THE RATIONALE FOR THE FRG POSITION WOULD RECEIVE FURTHER ELABORATION IN THE PAPER. THE FRG HOPES THE SPC COULD BEGIN DISCUSSIONS OF THIS ISSUE IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE. RUTH EMPHASIZED THE FRG WOULD WELCOME ANY IDEAS WHICH WASHINGTON WANTED TO OFFER FOR CONSIDERATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE PAPER.

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